

May 13, 1999

Dear Sir/Madam:

2162 '99 MAY 18 A11:40

I refer to you Docket # 98N-1038, Irradiation in the production, processing and handling of food. It is my belief that the FDA should keep and strengthen label laws for irradiated foods. Treated foods or products with any irradiated ingredients should be clearly labeled on the front of the package in bold letters. Any irradiated produce should have a sign clearly stating so. The radura symbol should also be used.

This is a new technology that has yet to be tested thoroughly. The very chemical makeup of the food is altered. New substances are formed in the foods, some possible carcinogens. Also, taste and texture are changed in some foods and certain vitamins are destroyed. How am I to know which food I am purchasing? If the practice of irradiating the food supply is supposed to be a "sound" one, there should be no attempt to hide this from the consumer. Terms such as "cold" or "electronic" pasteurization are extremely deceptive and misleading. Also, there should be no expiration date on labeling requirements.


I am the mother of three children. I choose to feed myself and my family wholesome, natural foods. As a consumer, I have a right to know what is in the food I am purchasing. The FDA has an obligation to protect my right to be informed!

I choose to eat organic, pesticide-free foods. I should have the same rights as a Jewish person has when selecting foods with a "Kosher" label. Does the FDA consider my right to know about irradiated foods less important than a devout Jew's right to know about "Kosher" foods?

The meat and poultry industries are powerful lobbies in this country; they would simply prefer to irradiate the Salmonella and E.Coli bacteria found in their products. This is a blatant attempt to sidestep the glaring issues of unsanitary growing practices. Please do not give in to this pressure! As a consumer in the United States, I count on you to protect my right to know what is in my food supply. Then, I can make an informed choice as to what I will feed my family.

I thank you for your time and hope your decision for labeling requirements reflect the consumer's right to know.

Sincerely,


Patricia Hannon
6588 Old Farm Road
Roanoke, VA 24018

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C2014

MS. PATRICIA HANNON
6588 OLD FARM RD
ROANOKE VA 24018-7640



Locketts Management Branch (HFA-305)
Food and Drug Administration
5630 FISHERS LANE, Room 1061
ROCKVILLE, MD 20852

20852/0001

